



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Volunteer Impact Report

20
26

Department of
Social Work
Accreditation
(DOSWA)
Volunteers



Questions?

Contact Alyson Balfour,
Volunteer Manager

adurant@cswe.org

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CSWE Mission

Founded in 1952, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the national association representing social work education in the United States. Its members include more than 900 accredited baccalaureate, master's, and practice doctorate degree social work programs and their affiliated social work educators, students, and staff, as well as practitioners and agencies dedicated to advancing quality social work education. Through its many initiatives, activities, and centers, CSWE supports quality social work education and provides opportunities for leadership and professional development so that social workers are empowered to play a central role in achieving the profession's goals of social and economic justice. CSWE's Board of Accreditation is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the accrediting agency for social work education in the United States and its territories.



Core Purpose

To ensure a well-educated social work profession equipped to advocate for and promote education, health, well-being, universal rights, and justice in a diverse world.

Mission

To advance excellence and innovation in social work education, by providing leadership and scholarship, to ensure quality in teaching and learning, supporting critical thinking, empathy, and advocacy to strengthen the capacity of our membership.



Since 1952



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Message from the Chair of the BOA and the DOSWA Executive Director

Dear Accreditation Volunteers,

In recognition of Volunteer Appreciation Week, Dr. Cooke and I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your steadfast commitment and service.

As of January 2026, our accreditation community is strengthened by 283 dedicated volunteers:

- 230 reaffirmation site visitors
- 30 members of the Board of Accreditation (BOA)
- 13 former BOA members supporting candidacy visits
- 10 Fellowship Review Committee members

Collectively, your contributions represent a significant investment in the advancement of social work education. Your expertise, thoughtful judgment, and professional integrity are foundational to the rigor and credibility of our accreditation process. Through your review of program materials, participation in site visits, engagement in meetings, and service on committees, you help ensure that students are educated at the highest professional standards.

We recognize that this work is carried out alongside your many professional and personal responsibilities. Your willingness to contribute your time and expertise in service to the profession reflects a deep commitment to excellence and to the future of social work education.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your leadership, your service, and your continued partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,

Octavio Ramirez
Octavio Ramirez, PhD., LCSW
Chair, Board of Accreditation

Collina D. Cooke
Collina D. Cooke, PhD., LCSW-C
Executive Director of Accreditation



Since 1952

Meet Our Accreditation Volunteers!

01

BOARD OF ACCREDITATION

The CSWE BOA is the accrediting body for social work education. The BOA is responsible for both formulating accreditation standards and determining the criteria and process for evaluating these standards.

02

SITE VISITORS

Site Visitors fulfill an essential role in the accreditation process by visiting accredited baccalaureate and master's programs to gather information on behalf of the BOA.

03

CANDIDACY VISITORS

Candidacy Visitors are former members of the CSWE Board of Accreditation who continue their volunteer service by conducting candidacy visits to baccalaureate, master's, and practice doctorate social work programs.

04

FELLOWSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE

Members of the Fellowship Review Committee serve as the primary review body for post-master's social work fellowship programs and is responsible for making accreditation decision recommendations to the BOA



Since 1952

Visits: By the Numbers

Three Visit Types Conducted by Volunteers:

- Members of the BOA as well as Candidacy Visitors conduct Candidacy Visits to baccalaureate, master's, and practice doctorate level social work programs seeking initial accreditation from CSWE.
- Site Visitors conduct Reaffirmation Site Visits to baccalaureate and master's level social work programs seeking reaffirmation of accreditation from CSWE.
- Fellowship Review Committee Members conduct visits to social work fellowship programs seeking initial accreditation or reaffirmation from CSWE.

183 Visits

Conducted by
accreditation
volunteers between
July 1, 2025 -
June 30, 2026.



Since 1952

Visits: By the Numbers

Accreditation volunteers are some of the hardest working people we know!

Across all four volunteer groups, a considerable amount of time, effort, and commitment is given by visitors to support social work programs across the United States.



The following pages provide an overview of cumulative volunteer contributions over the past year.

(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)



Since 1952

Days Spent Traveling to Visits

52
Days

Candidacy
Visits

184
Days

Site
Visits

16
Days

Fellowship
Visits

All three visit types conducted by our volunteers include the option for in-person visits based on program format, wherein the visitor travels to and from the program's location.

The highest number of in-person visits this year were conducted by site visitors, totaling **96 in-person reaffirmation visits**.



Since 1952

Hours Spent in Virtual Visits

424
Hours

Candidacy
Visits

40
Hours

Site
Visits

Candidacy and reaffirmation visits include the option for virtual visits based on program format, wherein the visitor and the program meet virtually for a full day of meetings.

The highest number of virtual visits this year were conducted by candidacy visitors, totaling **53 virtual visits**.



Since 1952

Hours Spent Preparing for Visits

**813.7
Hours**

Candidacy
Visits

**980
Hours**

Site
Visits

Preparation for both candidacy and reaffirmation visits includes review of program documents, setting the schedule, and coordinating with the program.

As you can see, this time adds up! We are impressed by the forethought of our volunteers in ensuring their own readiness for each visit.



Since 1952

Hours Spent Preparing Visit Reports

**364.4
Hours**

Candidacy
Visits

**570
Hours**

Site
Visits

A visit report is produced by the assigned visitor for each visit, serving as a factual summary of the visit findings and meeting discussions.

We are so grateful for the time volunteers spend documenting and editing reports, allowing the BOA to make informed accreditation decisions.



Since 1952

Hours Spent in FRC Meetings

**60
Hours**

Fellowship
Review
Committee

The Fellowship Review Committee meets three times per year to make accreditation recommendations to the BOA, in addition to the time they spend preparing for meetings and conducting visits.

The FRC is staffed by Stephanie McNally, Accreditation Operations Manager, pictured below with some of the FRC members at the Annual Conference in Denver, CO (October 2025).



Since 1952

Visits: In Their Words

Here's what programs had to say about their experiences working with accreditation volunteers!

“

”

The visit process was seamless, and the visitor presented in an exceptionally professional manner. The visitor created a comfortable environment for faculty and staff and engaged in a conversational style that facilitated open dialogue.

Our site visitor was wonderful. She was a joy to have and approached the site visit with professionalism, empathy, and joy. Her report was very thoughtfully written and provided helpful feedback about our program. Honestly, I was a little sad to see her go!

The visitor did an amazing job. As a program, we felt really nervous and our visitor did such a great job validating us and making this process very collaborative.



Since 1952

Thank You For Your Service!

Accreditation efforts are not possible without our outstanding and dedicated volunteers! We are amazed by your continual support and thank you for being part of this important work.

We can't wait to see what the next year has in store!



Board of Accreditation